

Ser. No. 10/676,937
Group Art Unit 3671

Remarks

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the brief telephone interview on March 14, 2006 at which the status of claims 10 and 28 and the withdrawn claim was discussed.

Claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-17 and 20-24, 28, 30-35, 38 and 40-43 are presently pending in this application. It is noted with appreciation that claims 40-43 have been allowed.

Claims 3, 5, 10-12, 15, 21-24, 28, 34, 35 and 38 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. It is noted, however, that claims 10 and 28 are independent, as they were rewritten in independent form in the last office action response. Therefore, claim 10 and 28, along with their dependent claims 11, 12, and 15 are also allowable. The status of these claims was confirmed in the telephone conference with the Examiner.

Claim 25-27, 29, 36, 37, 39 and 44-46 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17, 20 and 30-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,955,046. Independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended to specifically address this rejection.

Claim 1 was amended to include the allowable subject matter for claims 2 and 3, and claim 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claim 1 and dependent claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 are all in condition for allowance.

Claim 30 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 33 and 34, and claims 33 and 34 are now cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claim 30 and its dependent claims 31, 32 and 35 are all in condition for allowance.

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New claim 47 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 20 and 21. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 22, 23 and 24 were amended so that they now depend from claim 47.

New claim 48 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 30 and 38. Claim 38 is canceled. Therefore, claims 47 and 48 and dependent claims 22, 23, and 24 are all in condition for allowance.

It is understood from the telephone conference with the Examiner that withdrawn claims that depend from an allowed claim will be reinstated and allowed. It is noted that the dependency of claim 25 will need to be modified to depend from claim 47. It is respectfully submitted that at least claims 25, 26, 27, 29, 36, 37 and 39 should be examined and allowed as these claims now depend from an allowable generic claims.

Finally, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the last response. It was noted that there was a typographical error in the patent listed, so this IDS has been resubmitted electronically. A copy of the cited patent is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. The Applicant also enclosed a copy of the commonly owned, co-pending application Serial No. 10/653,319, which is also directed to a neutral start switch. However, the last Office Action did not acknowledge this submission, so it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the form initialed to acknowledge receipt of that application.

A Fee Transmittal form for the new claims is also enclosed. Any additional fees may be charged to our firm's deposit account number 502,261.

In sum, the Applicants have complied with all outstanding requirements and all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. Since Applicants have addressed all of the

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outstanding matters, it is requested that this application be granted a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date. Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

Any fees required by this Response may be charged to our firm's Deposit Account No. 502,261.

Date: March 15, 2005

By: 

Thomas C. McDonough, Reg. No. 33,734
NEAL, GERBER & EISENBERG
Two North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 269-8000

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